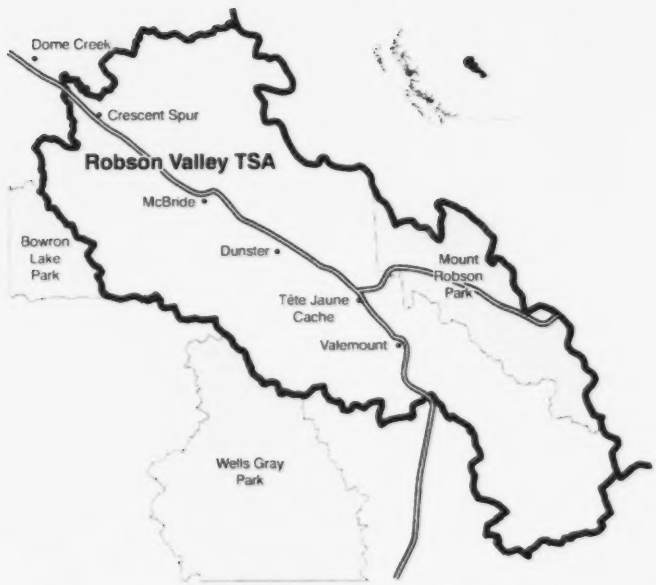
Timber Supply Review

Robson Valley Timber Supply Area

Information Report

December 1998



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry of Forests

Introduction

The British Columbia Forest Service is required by law to formally review the timber supply* in all timber supply areas* and tree farm licence* areas in the province. A review of each of the areas is completed at least once every five years. The main objectives of the five-year reviews are:

- to identify the economic, environmental and social information that reflects the current forest management practices—including their effects on the short- and long-term timber supply
- to identify where improved information is required for future timber supply forecasts
- to provide the chief forester with information to make any necessary adjustments to the allowable annual cuts* for the next five years

* Throughout this document, an asterisk at the end of a phrase or word indicates that a definition can be found in the margin.

Objective of this document

The objective of this document is to provide an opportunity for public review of the draft data and management assumptions that will be applied in reviewing the timber supply for the Robson Valley timber supply area. This document represents the early stages of the timber supply review process and is intended to provide a non-technical overview of the draft data and management assumptions that will be used in the upcoming *Robson Valley Timber Supply Area Analysis Report*.

The *Robson Valley Timber Supply Area Analysis Report* will be one of the documents that the chief forester will consider in making the allowable annual cut determination under Section 8 of the *Forest Act*. Public input is encouraged to ensure the best information is used in determining allowable annual cuts.

This report contains a general description of the data assumptions and current forest management practices related to timber supply for the Robson Valley timber supply area. For the purpose of this timber supply review, current practices can be defined as the set of land-use decisions and forest management practices that are currently implemented and enforced. Future forest management objectives that may be established but are not currently implemented and enforced are not included.

The draft data and management assumptions are summarized on pages 6 through 9. For a more detailed description of the information, please contact the Robson Valley Forest District Office in McBride or the Prince George Forest Region Office in Prince George and request a copy of the data package. The public will have 30 days to review and comment on the information report and data package. A response form at the end of this document will assist you in providing your comments. Written comments will be accepted until January 15, 1999.

Timber Supply Review process

In British Columbia, a process of determining allowable annual cuts has been in place since the late 1940s. However, the process has changed significantly since then. More recently, the process has had some minor revisions designed to improve efficiency and encourage earlier public review through the release of this report.

Figure 1 (next page) illustrates the five-step process that has been developed for

Timber supply
A harvest level that is forecasted to be available over time, under a particular management regime.

Timber supply area
An integrated resource management unit established in accordance with Section 7 of the *Forest Act*.

Tree farm licence
An agreement entered into with the provincial government which provides for the establishment, management and harvesting of timber by a private interest on a defined area of Crown land in accordance with the *Forest Act*.

Allowable annual cut
The rate of timber harvest permitted each year from a specified area of land, usually expressed as cubic metres of wood per year.

Timber Supply Review
in the Robson Valley TSA

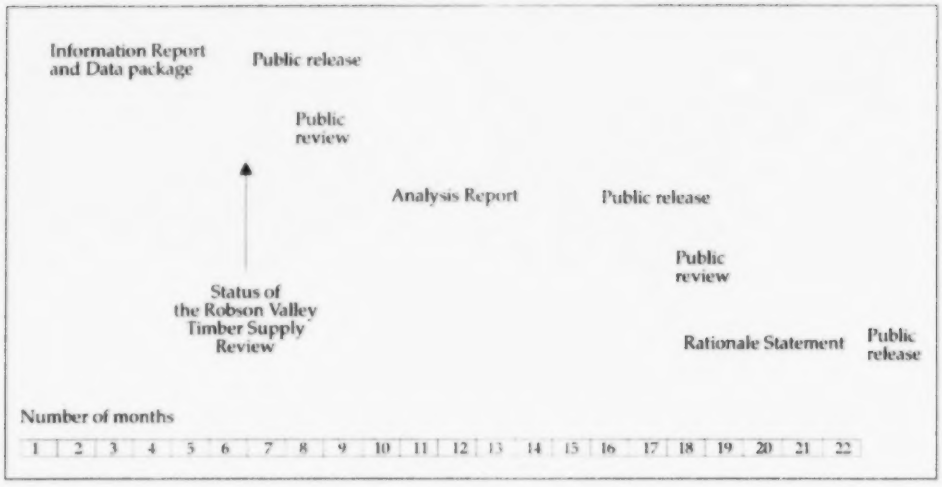

Information Report and Data package
Public release
Public review
Analysis Report
Public release
Public review
Status of the Robson Valley Timber Supply Review
Rationale Statement
Public release
Number of months
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

Figure 1.
Review process for the Robson Valley timber supply area.

the Timber Supply Review of timber supply areas. The diagram indicates the current status of the timber supply review for the Robson Valley timber supply area, and the estimated time required for each step.

The process for reviewing the timber supply and establishing the allowable annual cut for tree farm licence areas is based on similar principles; however, the process takes 30 months from start to completion.

The chief forester's responsibility

Determining the allowable annual cuts for Crown forest lands in British Columbia is the responsibility of the province's chief forester. It is one of the chief forester's most important responsibilities since it affects the local and provincial economies and environment—now and in the future. Section 8 of the *Forest Act* requires the chief forester to consider the following factors to determine allowable annual cuts for timber supply areas and tree farm licence areas:

a) the rate of timber production that may be sustained from the area, taking into account:
   - the composition of the forest and its expected rate of growth
   - the time in which the forest will become re-established
   - silvicultural treatments, including reforestation
   - standards of timber utilization
   - constraints on the amount of timber produced from the area due to use of the forest for purposes other than timber production
   - any other information which relates to the capability of the area to produce timber

b) the short- and long-term implications to the province of alternative rates of timber harvesting from the area

c) the nature, production capabilities and timber requirements of established and proposed processing facilities

d) the economic and social objectives of the Crown for the area, the region and the province, as expressed by the minister of forests

e) abnormal insect or disease infestations and major salvage programs planned for the timber on the area

Some of these factors can be measured and analyzed—others cannot. Ultimately, the chief forester's determination is an independent, professional judgment based on the best available information. Information that is relevant to the factors listed above is provided to the chief forester by government agencies, the minister of forests and the public.

One of the objectives of the Timber Supply Review is to incorporate changes arising from new information, new practices and new government initiatives that may have an impact on timber supply. In the event of significant change, the allowable annual cut may be reviewed in less than the required five years.

Following the release of the allowable annual cut determination by the chief forester, the minister of forests apportions the cut to the various licences and programs.

Principles of the Timber Supply Review

In determining allowable annual cuts—in addition to the requirements outlined in Section 8 of the *Forest Act*—the following principles have been developed.

The Timber Supply Review:

- is a decision-making process for establishing the allowable annual cut for timber supply areas and tree farm licence areas by the chief forester on a maximum five-year cycle, as required under Section 8 of the *Forest Act*; **it is not a process for making land-use or management decisions**
- incorporates the best information available including all relevant current practices, and identifies where new information is needed
- reflects the results of implemented plans and land-use decisions, and provides a benchmark for future planning processes
- involves other agencies, affected groups and the public

Robson Valley Land and Resource Management Plan

The Robson Valley Land and Resource Management planning process began in 1993. The planning process provides an opportunity for the public, interest groups and government to make recommendations regarding proposed new protected areas and future management of public forest lands in the Robson Valley timber supply area.

The draft management plan covers the entire Robson Valley timber supply area including Mount Robson Provincial Park and it is anticipated that the plan will be approved in 1999.

Until the proposed protected areas have been confirmed and established by an order-in-council, the areas will continue to contribute to the timber harvesting land base. If the proposed protected areas are established prior to setting the allowable annual cut, then they will be accounted for accordingly. However, the impact of potential changes in the size of the timber harvesting land base will be examined through sensitivity analyses*.

Description of the timber supply area

The Robson Valley timber supply area is located in east-central British Columbia and covers approximately 1.3 million hectares. It lies largely within the Rocky Mountain trench between the Cariboo and Monashee Mountains to the west, and the Rocky Mountains and the Alberta provincial border to the east.

The Robson Valley timber supply area is contained within Robson Valley Forest District and is administered by the Robson Valley Forest District office located in McBride.

Sensitivity analysis
Examines how uncertainty in data and management assumptions affect timber supply.

Forest Land Resources

Timber, forage, water, fisheries, wildlife, scenic landscapes, and outdoor recreation opportunities highlight the wide range of forest land resources found in the Robson Valley timber supply area. The forest is dominated by mature and old-growth stands of timber. Guide outfitting and trapping depend on the large mammals and fur-bearing animals common to the area. The scenic beauty is enjoyed by both residents and tourists. Outdoor recreation opportunities include hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, and cross country, telemark and heli-skiing.

The landscape of Robson Valley timber supply area is rugged and characterized by snow-capped mountain ranges, steep forested slopes, and fast-moving mountain streams. The Rocky Mountain trench with its gentle topography bisects the mountains, and provides suitable land for agriculture, road and rail transportation and community development.

To the west, the Robson Valley timber supply area borders on three provincial parks: Bowron Lake, Wells Gray and the Mitchell Lake-Niagara protected area that connects them. To the east, is the Willmore Wilderness Area, Mount Robson Provincial Park, and Jasper National Park, and to the north-east is the Kakwa Recreation Area.

The two main waterways are the Fraser River which flows north-west from Mount Robson Provincial Park toward Prince George, and Kinbasket Lake, which lies south-east between the Rocky Mountains and the Monashee Ranges.

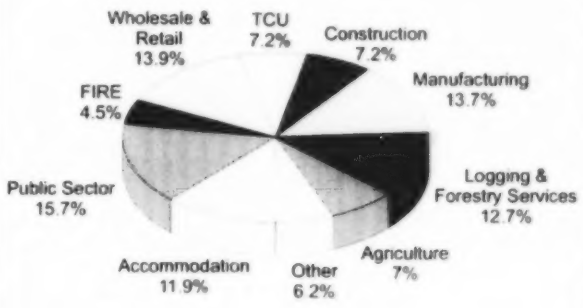
There are four biogeoclimatic zones* in the Robson Valley timber supply area: the Sub-Boreal Spruce zone found at low elevations in the main trench, the Interior Cedar-Hemlock zone encountered at low to mid-elevations through out the area, the Engelmann Spruce-Subalpine Fir zone at higher elevations, and the Alpine Tundra zone found at mountain tops.

Biogeoclimatic zones
A large geographic area with broadly homogeneous climate and similar dominant tree species.

The communities

The major population centers in the area are McBride and Valemount. Other communities include Crescent Spur - Loos, Dunster, Tete Jaune, and Albreda.

The population of the Robson Valley timber supply area is approximately 4,080. The population is concentrated in McBride (740 persons) and Valemount (1,300), with the remainder of the population living in the smaller communities and rural areas. The total population of the Robson Valley timber supply area increased by 12 per cent from 1991 to 1996; however, the area has not yet returned to higher population levels reported in the early 1980s.



Source: 1996 Census of Canada.
Notes: 'FIRE' consists of finance, insurance, real estate, and other business services. 'TCU' consists of transportation, communications and utilities. 'Other' consists of manufacturing not elsewhere allocated.

Figure 2. Employment by sector for Robson Valley area - 1996

First Nations

There are no First Nations communities in the Robson Valley timber supply area, although the Lheidli T'enneh Nation, and the North Thompson Band claim traditional territory in the main valley, and the Canim Lake Band, the Williams Lake Band and the Red Bluff Band also have territorial interests.

The economy

The largest industrial sectors in the timber supply area are forestry and wood products manufacturing. The public sector makes up the next largest group, while accommodation, wholesale and retail services are also significant. Figure 2 (previous page) illustrates total employment by industry sector for the Robson Valley area.

The majority of forestry employment in the timber supply area is associated with harvesting and silviculture activities and with the processing of wood products at two major facilities: the Zeidler Forest Industries Ltd. veneer plant and lumber mill in McBride and the Slocan Forest Products Ltd. lumber mill in Valemount. In 1997, employment at these facilities totaled 211 jobs. Other operators include Hauer Bros. Lumber Ltd., Bell Pole Co. Ltd., TRC Cedar Ltd., small specialty mills and value-added operations, and the Small Business Forest Enterprise Program.

History of the allowable annual cut

On April 2, 1996, the chief forester set the allowable annual cut at 602,377 cubic metres. This decision maintained the previous allowable annual cut of 600,000 cubic metres, less 3,623 cubic metres allocated to woodlot licences and included a 6,000 cubic metre partition for deciduous species.

As part of the 1996 determination, the chief forester gave direction to resolve uncertainties with respect to the timber supply in the Robson Valley timber supply area. In preparation for the next allowable annual cut determination, the following issues were examined:

- **Environmentally sensitive areas -** In the last determination, it was noted that there was uncertainty about the amount of environmentally sensitive areas in the Betty Wendle area located in the north-west portion of the timber supply area.

  Since then, the district staff have mapped the environmentally sensitive areas and this new information will be incorporated into the timber supply analysis.

- **Alternative silviculture systems -** In the last rationale, the chief forester asked district staff to examine the use of alternative silviculture systems and their associated effects on the timber supply to facilitate an better understanding of impacts on expected future yields.

  District staff have determined that from 1994 to 1996 the use of alternative culture systems—shelter wood, seed and selection systems—were applied to approximately six per cent of the volume harvested.

  In addition, a report completed in January 1998 for the Robson Valley timber supply area assessed the merchantable volume available in visually sensitive areas. Although there is future potential for increased use of alternative silviculture systems, at present, these systems are not extensively utilized. However, a sensitivity analysis will examine the implications of any uncertainty regarding applying alternative silviculture systems in visually sensitive areas.

- **Cedar and hemlock stands -** As part of the last timber supply review, the chief forester requested the district staff to monitor the harvesting activity in cedar and hemlock stands to confirm their level of utilization and evaluate the appropriateness of their projected contribution to the timber supply.

  The district staff have monitored this activity and have determined that there has been reasonable utilization of cedar and hemlock stands and therefore appropriate contributions of these stands will be included in the timber harvesting land base.

Integrated resource management
The identification and consideration of all resource values, including social, economic and environmental needs, in resource planning and decision-making.

Forest Practices Code
Legislation, standards and guidebooks that govern forest practices and standards, with heavy penalties for violators.

Environmentally sensitive areas
Areas identified as requiring special management to protect important recreation and scenic values, fisheries resources, sensitive soils and unstable slopes.

Note: For more information on these points, please refer to the Robson Valley timber supply area rationale for allowable annual cut determination, April 1996.

Current timber supply review

Public forest lands in British Columbia provide recreational enjoyment, fish and wildlife habitat, water supplies, timber resources and many other benefits. The Ministry of Forests manages the timber, range and recreation resources on public lands, while the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks is responsible for the management of fish, wildlife, water resources, commercial recreation and parks. Both agencies subscribe to the principle of integrated resource management*, where all resources are considered when making forest management decisions.

The Forest Practices Code* is now law and has been fully implemented in the timber supply area since June 15, 1997. The new practices may influence both the short- and long-term timber supply.

The data and management assumptions that will be used in the timber supply analysis will be based on the existing land-use designations and resource management practices that are currently approved and implemented in the Robson Valley timber supply area. The timber supply forecast developed from this data is termed the base case. In addition, sensitivity analyses will be performed which are useful for assessing how any changes or uncertainties in assumptions might affect timber supply. The chief forester will also consider any new information, based on implemented changes, at the time of the allowable annual cut determination.

Draft data and management assumptions for public review

The public is encouraged to review the data and management assumptions for completeness and accuracy. In determining an allowable annual cut, the chief forester will consider these assumptions as required by Section 8 of the *Forest Act*. The following general outline contains *some* of the more pertinent information that will be used in the timber supply analysis and, subsequently, in the chief forester's allowable annual cut determination for the Robson Valley timber supply area. More detailed information can be found in *Appendix A: Data Package*. This appendix is available upon request from the Ministry of Forests offices listed at the end of this report.

Land base factors

- **Operable area** - The forested area in the Robson Valley timber supply area has been assessed for operability based on the slope of the land, and has been assessed for merchantability based on timber types and economic attributes. Only those areas that are considered both operable and merchantable will contribute to the timber harvesting land base*.
- **Low productivity sites** - In addition to the above, forest types that are not considered fully available for harvesting due to forest characteristics such as low timber volumes or low growth productivity will be separated from the timber harvesting land base.
- **Environmentally sensitive areas*** - An evaluation of the environmental concerns and the past level of harvesting within these areas was used to determine the appropriate contribution of these

areas to the timber harvesting land base. For the Robson Valley timber supply area, all of the areas classified for recreation, 90 per cent of the area classified for forest regeneration problems, snow avalanches and very high likelihood of landslides, and 10 per cent of the area classified for high likelihood of landslides will not contribute to the timber harvesting land base.

- **Forest roads** - Harvesting and road construction follow provincial guidelines. Currently, an estimation of 2.3 per cent of the operable land base is considered as not contributing to the timber harvesting land base due to existing roads, trials and landings in the Robson Valley timber supply area. Also, it is estimated that an additional portion of the remaining unharvested areas will be lost over time to future roads, trails and landings.

Inventory factors

- **Forest resource inventory** - Fifteen inventories including forest cover will be used to determine the timber harvesting land base and the associated themes to be used in defining forest management activities.

  The forest cover inventory has been updated to either 1997 or 1998, depending on the location, to record recent harvesting and silviculture activities.

  The dominant tree species in the Robson Valley timber supply area are spruce, sub-alpine fir, lodgepole pine, redcedar, hemlock and Douglas-fir. White pine, whitebark pine, black spruce, aspen, birch and cottonwood are also found in the timber supply area.

- **Minimum harvestable ages** - For the purpose of the timber supply analysis, a minimum harvestable age is reached when forest stands achieve 140 cubic metres per hectare for areas requiring conventional (ground based) harvesting, 200 cubic metres per hectare for mixed conventional /cable harvesting, and 250 cubic metres per hectare for cable harvesting areas.

- **Deciduous volumes** - The deciduous volumes from mixed coniferous and deciduous forests will not contribute to the timber supply. However, leading-deciduous forests are considered as contributing to the timber supply and are currently partitioned. The existing partition of 6000 cubic metres for deciduous-leading forest types will be examined in the timber supply analysis.

- **Volume adjustments** - For the timber supply analysis, adjustment factors will be applied to reduce volume estimates for regenerated stands to reflect volume losses due to root disease and spruce-terminal weevil. A sensitivity analysis will examine any uncertainty regarding adjustment factors.

Forest re-establishment factors

- **Basic silviculture** - British Columbia laws require that areas that are harvested and expected to produce timber in the future must be reforested with ecologically acceptable species within a specified time frame. The most common silvicultural practice is to harvest; then if necessary prepare the site for reforestation; reforest by planting a mix of species or by relying on natural regeneration; and control competing vegetation.

  In the Robson Valley timber supply area, reforestation is achieved predominantly by planting of acceptable coniferous species. In the timber supply analysis, it is assumed that areas will be reforested within approximate three years after harvesting has begun.

Timber utilization factors

- **Timber utilization** - Volume estimates will be based on the utilization of all trees which meet or exceed the following standards: maximum stump

Timber harvesting land base
Crown forest land within the timber supply area that is currently considered feasible and economical for timber harvesting.

Cutblock
A specific area, with defined boundaries, authorized for harvest.

Riparian habitat
The stream bank and flood plain area adjacent to streams or water bodies.

Wildlife tree
A standing live or dead tree with special characteristics that provide valuable habitat for conservation or enhancement of wildlife.

Coarse woody debris
Logs and stumps that provide habitat for plants, animal and insects, and a source of nutrients for soil development.

height of 30 centimetres, minimum top diameter inside bark of 10 centimetres, minimum diameter at stump height of 15 centimetres for lodgepole pine and 20 centimetres for all other conifers and deciduous trees.

Infestations, devastations, and salvage of timber

- Each year portions of the forests in the Robson Valley timber supply area are damaged by natural agents such as insects, disease, fire and wind. It is anticipated that some of the damaged timber will not be salvaged due to poor road access and economic limitations. The unsalvaged volume is estimated to be 92,604 cubic metres annually.

Factors to be considered for purposes other than timber production

Forest management guidelines used to manage forest resources such as biodiversity, scenic values, wildlife habitat and water quality will be included in the timber supply analysis through the use of forest cover requirements, and volume and land-base reductions.

- **Forest cover requirements** - Under current forest management practices, cutblocks* must achieve green-up before adjacent areas are permitted to be harvested. Green-up is described by a maximum allowable disturbance (per cent area) and tree height (metres). For example, to account for forest cover requirements in the integrated management area, a maximum of 33 per cent of the timber harvesting land base will be allowed to have forests less than three metres tall at any time.
- **Visually sensitive areas** - These are areas where the maintenance of scenic landscapes is a priority for recreation and tourism, particularly in areas that are adjacent to major travel corridors and waterways. Road construction and logging within these areas are planned and implemented to minimize visual impacts. In the timber supply analysis, the visual quality objectives that have been established for scenic areas in the viewsheds along Highway 16 (Rocky Mountain Trench) and Highway 5 (Tete Jaune to Alberta) will be considered current practice. A sensitivity analysis will examine the recommendations regarding the visual quality classes for other scenic areas in the Robson Valley timber supply area.
- **Riparian habitat*** - To meet the requirements of the Forest Practices Code, a portion of the timber harvesting land base will be considered unavailable for timber harvesting to account for riparian habitat areas along streams and lakes. Currently, it is estimated that approximately six per cent of the land base will be excluded to account for riparian reserves and approximately three per cent of the land base will be excluded to account for riparian management zones.
- **Biological diversity** - or biodiversity, is the full range of living organisms, in all their forms and levels of organization, and includes the diversity of genes, species, and ecosystems, and the evolutionary and functional processes that link them. The Forest Practices Code requires that biodiversity be managed at both the stand and landscape level.

  Leaving wildlife tree* patches and coarse woody debris* for stand-level biodiversity is current practice in the Robson Valley timber supply area. Generally, coarse woody debris objectives can be met by the contributions of non-merchantable timber. The current practice of leaving wildlife tree patches requires that a percentage of each cutblock be retained. This requirement can be met partially by riparian habitat areas and other areas outside of the timber harvesting land base, therefore approximately two per cent of the timber harvesting land base will be considered unavailable for harvesting in the timber supply analysis.

Landscape-level biodiversity will be addressed in the timber supply analysis by applying averaged seral stage* constraints to each draft landscape unit* and natural disturbance type*. This approach has been taken because at this time the landscape units and biodiversity objectives are still in draft form and have not been formally established.

Sensitivity analyses will be undertaken to examine the potential impact on timber supply of applying the draft biodiversity emphasis objectives from the Robson Valley Landscape Unit Planning Strategy (April 1998).

- **Grizzly bear habitat** - To account for buffers that protect important grizzly bear habitat in the Engelmann Spruce-Subalpine Fir zone, one per cent of the timber harvesting land base will be considered unavailable for timber harvesting.
- **Caribou habitat** - All areas designated as high quality caribou habitat are excluded from the timber harvesting land base. Forest cover requirements will be applied to areas designated as medium quality caribou habitat or as caribou corridors.
- **Community watersheds** - To account for forest cover requirements in community watersheds, a maximum of five per cent of the timber harvesting land base will be allowed to have forests less than three metres tall at any time.

Implications of alternative rates of harvesting

- **Alternative rates of harvesting** - There are many alternative harvest forecasts that can be produced for a given set of forest conditions and management assumptions. Each alternative usually represents a trade-off between the harvest level in the short term and the subsequent rate of decline to the long-term harvest level. For the projected base-case forecast*, the initial harvest forecast will be based on trying to achieve the current rate of harvest in the short term without compromising the long-term harvest level. The implications of alternative short-term rates of harvest will be tested in sensitivity analyses.
- **Implications related to community dependence** - The impact of timber supply adjustments on local communities and the provincial economy is an important consideration in the timber supply review. The April 1995 *Robson Valley Timber Supply Area Socio-Economic Analysis* reported that, provincially, harvesting, silviculture and processing activities associated with the harvesting of the Robson Valley timber supply area supported 483 direct person-years* and 725 indirect and induced* person-years of employment. About 45 per cent of these are located in the Robson Valley timber supply area.

The socio-economic section of the upcoming timber supply analysis report will review the role of the forest sector in the Robson Valley timber supply area. To provide this update, current information on employment and fibre flows will be gathered from licensees, processing facilities, the B.C. Forest Service and other stakeholders. Indirect and other related employment at both local and provincial levels will also be estimated using employment multipliers provided by the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations.

To examine the implications of alternative rates of harvest, employment co-efficients, reported in person-years per 1000 cubic metres, will be developed and used to estimate changes to employment levels now and in the future from any potential harvest level changes.

Timber processing facilities

The socio-economic analysis will examine the implications of potential changes of

Seral stages
Sequential stages in the development of plant communities that successively occupy and replace each other over time.

Landscape unit
A planning area based on topographic or geographic features.

Natural disturbance type
An area that is characterized by a natural disturbance regime, such as wildfires, and affects the seral stages. Areas with less stand-initiating disturbance have older forests, and generally a greater abundance of species.

Base-case forecast
The timber supply forecast which illustrates the effect of current forest management practices on the timber supply using the best available information.

timber supply for the area's processing facilities: Zeidler Forest Industries' veneer plant and sawmill, Slocan Forest Products' sawmill and the smaller operators within the timber supply area. In 1997, primary mills in the timber supply area processed over 800,000 cubic metres of wood.

Economic and social objectives of the Crown

In a letter and a memo to the chief forester, the minister of forests has expressed the Crown's economic and social objectives for the province. The harvest flow objectives to be used in the timber supply analysis (see above, "Alternative rates of harvesting") are consistent with the minister's stated objectives.

In addition, economic and social objectives for the area and the general region will be derived from public input.

Induced person-years
Induced employment is generated through the spending of direct and indirect employment income, such as in local retail outlets.

Your input is needed

Establishing the allowable annual cut is an important decision which requires well-informed and thoughtful public input. Feedback is welcomed on any aspect of this *Information Report*, the *Data Package Appendix* and other topics related to the timber supply in the Robson Valley timber supply area. The response form at the end of this document will assist you in preparing your comments. As well, Forest Service staff would be pleased to discuss questions or concerns that may help you prepare your response.

Person-year
One person working the equivalent of one full year. If someone works full-time for six months, he or she accounts for 0.5 person years.

Please mail the completed response form and your comments to the Forest Service district manager located at the address below. Your comments will be accepted until January 15, 1999.

After receiving public input, the B.C. Forest Service will finalize the data and management assumptions that will be applied in this timber supply analysis. The timber supply analysis will be completed and available for review by summer of 1999. You may also wish to participate in the second public review period, which will follow the release of the *Robson Valley Timber Supply Area Analysis Report.*

Following the second public review period, the chief forester will examine all the information available in order to review the timber supply for the Robson Valley timber supply area. The chief forester will then establish the allowable annual cut based on his consideration of the factors as required under Section 8 of the *Forest Act.*

You may identify yourself on your response if you wish. If you do, you are reminded that responses will be subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and may be made public. If copies of the responses are requested, personal identifiers will be removed before the responses are released.

For more information contact and/or mail your comments to:

District Manager
Robson Valley Forest District
B.C. Forest Service
380 Highway 16 West
McBride, B.C.
V0J 2E0

Phone: (250) 569-3700
Fax: (250) 569-3738

or electronically mail to:
Norma.StrombergJones@gems8.gov.bc.ca

Robson Valley Timber Supply Area
Timber Supply Review

Information Report Response Form

The *Forest Act* requires the chief forester to consider the following factors to determine the allowable annual cut for timber supply areas and tree farm licence areas in the province, as follows:

- the rate of timber production that can be sustained from the area;
- the short- and long-term implications to the province of alternative rates of timber harvesting from the area;
- the nature, production capabilities and timber requirements of established and proposed timber processing facilities;
- the economic and social objectives of the Crown for the area, the general region, and the province, as expressed by the minister of forests, and;
- abnormal insect or disease infestations and major salvage programs planned for the area.

We welcome your review to ensure the best available information is considered for the Robson Valley timber supply area. Please provide your comments on this form, or in another format. Input will be accepted until January 15, 1999.

A. Economic and social objectives

Please use the space below to provide your comments regarding the economic and social information contained in this report or other information that you believe should be considered in completing the social and economic analysis for the Robson Valley timber supply area.

B. The draft data and management assumptions

Please use the space below to provide your comments regarding the draft data and management assumptions contained in this report or other information that you believe should be considered in the timber supply analysis for the Robson Valley timber supply area.

Name (optional): _____

Address (optional): _____

Mail or fax your comments to:

District Manager
Robson Valley Forest District
B.C. Forest Service
380 Highway 16 West
McBride, B.C.
V0J 2E0

Phone: (250) 569-3700
Fax: (250) 569-3738

or electronically mail to: Norma.StrombergJones@gems8.gov.bc.ca

APPENDIX A

Data Package
Description of Data Inputs and Management Assumptions

This appendix is available upon request from the following Ministry of Forests offices.

Offices are located at:

Robson Valley Forest District
380 Highway 16 West,
McBride, B.C.
V0J 2E0
Phone: (250) 569-3700

Prince George Forest Region
1011 4th Avenue
Prince George, B.C.
V2L 3H9
Phone: (250) 565-6100

Timber Supply Branch
3rd Floor - 595 Pandora Avenue
P.O. Box 9512,
Stn Provincial Government
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 9C3
Phone (250) 356-5947